

COUNTRY

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25X1A

346

TOPIC Cottbus Airfield

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 20 September 1951

REFERENCES

25X1A

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

25X1X

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1. Between 3 and 7 p.m. on 9 August 1951, there was no flying at Cottbus airfield. About 30 to 40 twin-engine aircraft were parked in two rows in front of the closed hangars. * Thirty civilians were excavating in the southwestern section of the field.
2. About 9 a.m. on 3 August, 28 twin-engine planes took off in flights and assembled in one formation in the air. No landings were made until 10:30 a.m. At 4 p.m. on 11 August, 34 twin-engine planes were parked in two rows in front of the hangars. There was no flying. A landing beacon was east of the Lower Pond. Its mast was braced in four places. **
3. At 10 a.m. on 15 August, 40 twin-engine aircraft were parked in front of the hangars. One plane, probably making test flights, circled the field. After each circle, the plane landed and four mechanics worked on the engines. Radio truck [REDACTED] with a rod antenna was parked in the 25X1B extension of the runway.
4. At 6 a.m. on 21 August, 38 twin-engine planes of the type previously observed were counted in front of the hangars. Grading work west of the runway was not completed. Trucks [REDACTED] left the field.

25X1B

5. At 5 a.m. on 23 August, an alarm was heard from the field. Numerous aircraft engines were then started. Forty-three twin-engine planes with in-line engines and double rudder assembly were parked in two rows in front of the hangars. At 3:30 a.m., 23 of the planes took off individually and assembled in four squadrons in wedge formation. The aircraft landed between 9:20 and 9:40 a.m. A two-man crew in tandem was seen in the cockpit. The aircraft were equipped with four weapons. A weapon was fitted on both the right and left front side of the cockpit, a third one was above and aft of the cockpit while another one was in

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the belly turret which pointed to the rear and down. Some planes had plexiglass noses. The lower portions of the planes were blue gray and the upper portions green. Some small concrete bunkers with sloping roofs were dug into the ground just north of the taxiway which begins at the west end of the runway and extends in a circle to the north.

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* [REDACTED] Comment. The airfield is still occupied by a bomber regiment equipped with about 45 FE-2s.

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** [REDACTED] Comment. The exact location of the beacon was previously reported.

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